[Com^{tee} asked for y^r reference to y^r Prigg State decision.]

Beecher's opt^n — No promise was made in y^r Const^n to give up Slaves

fulfil its part of the engagement, or contract — refuses to discharge the duty wh it stipulates to discharge, the other party is exonerated, absolved, free, in law and equity, from any Oblig^n under that instrument, or at least in that portion of y^r instrument which relates to y^r Subject violated by y^r other party.

How have y^r Southern States discharged their duties to the citizens of y^r North?

S. Hoar
M. Hubbard at N. Orleans
4 Mass. Men Sold into Slavery in Texas

Whole State	187 "	168 "	= 355 only 19 maj.
Mid Sussex	17 Yeas	25 Nays	
Worcester	7 "	43 "	
Hampshire	19 "	33 "	
Berkshire	7 "	15 "	

The Petitions —
Small N^o of names on Some
Reasons =

On y^r Contrary, see y^r large N^os on others.
Why?
No reason exists why one of these towns sh^d desire such a law, more than another.
The largest petitions are then to be taken as most correctly representing y^r feeling of y^e Com^{ty} wh^{ch}

Five Sixths
Gloucester (one man)
Manchester (one woman in)
Fitchburg (a young man, Spencer, took a part of his College vacation & obtained nearly 500 names)
~~Duty in another State~~

We ask a Law y^t shall render Slavery impossible in any State on y^r Soil of Mass^{tts}

Case of y^r Liverpool Vessel
Murder of seven Cl-
Principle in this act are the fruits of y^e Dred Scott decision

By y^r infamous decision and opinion, y^e door is thrown wide open for any amount of injustice to be done to y^r entire colored population whether Slave or free; — a population of not less than 5,000,000 are thus to be ~~provided~~ left in fact without y^r least legal protection

Is there not a present, immediate need of such a Law?

We ask a law such as has been on ye Statute book of Vermont for ~~ten~~ two years - without the sky falling

But some may say - Mass^tts is "bound"

I. If she is, she ought not to be, bound to do wrong; - & above all so atrocious a wrong as Thrusting a Man into Slavery - But -

II. A. I deny y^t she is bound under y^e Const^n in such a way as constitutes either a legal or a moral obligation

for 1. } Mass^ts was circumvented - her consent to y^e provision of y^e U. S. Const^n was obtained on false pretences, as I may say - by y^e promise of an equivalent she has never rec^d. In proof - 'tis a well-known historical fact that it was long expected that Mass^ts would refuse her consent to y^e Const^n - in part on acc^t of y^e Sanction given to Slavery therein - Cobb, Dane, and others arose in y^e Conv^n to assure them that this was only a temporary arrang^t "that Slavery had been smitten by a mortal disease, & was dying of a Consumption".

These arg^ts, that Slavery was doomed, coupled with y^e fact that the Slave Trade wo^d probably be prohibited after Jan. 1. 1808, finally induced a majority - a very small one - to accept y^e Const^n. - But even then large majorities of the Counties of Middlesex, Worcester, & Hampshire, &c - all the inland counties containing the most settled & abiding population - voted, by great majorities, against y^e Const^n.

Now, I say, y^e consent of Mass^ts to y^e U. S. Const^n, was obtained by a promise which has never been redeemed.

But } 2. } Is it not a sound principle, both in Law & morals, that if one party to a contract refuses to